

## THE DIGNITY OF AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP.

Address of Maj. E. B. Murray before the Literary Societies of Erie College.

[Without consulting Maj. Murray, during his absence in Columbia we take the liberty of publishing the following address, which was delivered by him before the Literary Societies of Erie College at Due West during the recent Commencement, and which we copy from the *Abbeville Press and Banner* of last week, as we know it will be read with interest by our many readers.]—LOCAL EDITOR.

Patriotism has in all ages been accounted one of the highest of human virtues. It is given to history its grandest heroes, and has been the foundation stone upon which the best governments of earth have been built. It lends dignity to a people and always elicits the best efforts with the sympathy of the world, even if the cause in which it is exhibited does not commend the approbation of the public sentiment. Where it is displayed in the support of a country whose institutions are just and right, it receives the plaudits of its most lofty type; and in the hands of its richest lessons of statesmanship and valor. It is well, therefore, for every people to cultivate this virtue, and to make it a happy and worthy of duration to its citizens are patriots. It is well for a people not only to exercise this virtue, but to analyze the reasons why it is so essential in so doing, and to draw the distinction between the citizen who obeys the government, and the patriot whose aim and purpose is to advance the interests of his country. The citizen may obey a government because it is his individual interest to do so, or because he has no other physical power to resist its laws. The patriot shapes his course upon higher principle than either of these—his standard being the eternal justice and the welfare of his citizens. Hence history abounds in instances of patriots whose names have been achieved in sacrifices made for the sake of their country, and whose valorous deeds performed in the defense of governments of which they were citizens, and like-wise instances of the highest order of patriotism where men in the interest of their homes and their country, have risked their fortunes and braved the dangers of battle and of the gibbet to overthrow despotism and tyranny.

THE DIGNITY OF AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP. Patriotism is not measured by success, but by heroic deeds performed in a meritorious cause. Great cities whose institutions have been founded by the heroism and judgment of a noble population may feel a just pride in their inheritance, and it is the duty of every citizen to them to contemplate the forces which gave rise to their government, the principles which it represents, and the duties which it imposes upon the citizen who owes it allegiance. It is my purpose therefore today to ask you to consider the "dignity of American Citizenship," and to see how the origin and the principles of our government, and the obligations which it imposes upon its people.

Revolution is the Mother of Nations. It is the human agency by which old dynasties are torn from the seats of their power and new governments are founded in their stead. It has been like the source of life and of evil to mankind—has in turn carried the conquering arms of civilized nations into the realms of barbarism, and has given to the world the "Dark Ages," as the result of barbarian triumphs over the old civilizations, and yet again it has restored civilization, and made the world a better place. It is the duty of every citizen to consider the "dignity of American Citizenship," and to see how the origin and the principles of our government, and the obligations which it imposes upon its people.

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type of manhood that history records. It was for Washington to lead the forces of revolution and vanquish the armies of Great Britain. This was distinction of great degree, but it is insignificant in Washington's fame. While country's adoption and a world's plaudits were being lavished upon him for his victorious leadership in what deliberately refused to accept an immoderate extension of his tenure as President, and fixed a term of eight years as the limit beyond which no man of his kind could have gone. He had fought, not for conquest, but for his country's freedom. He lived not for ambition, but for the country's good, and richly does his memory deserve the praise of Byron's pen:

"Where may the weary eye repose  
Where neither guilty glory glows,  
Nor despicable state?  
—'Tis here, 'tis here, the best  
The Cincinnati of the West  
Whom every dared not hate,  
Beats the heart of Washington,  
To make men blush there was but one!"

"First in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen," he not only was and is, but will remain the example of the highest type of Citizenship. His character, my friends, presents to my imagination a full and complete model of the standard of exalted manhood which has ever been bequeathed to history by statesman or warrior. In a public point of view he stands a general the equal of Caesar and greater than Napoleon—greater than Napoleon, because he could bear adversity and rescue his country from the clutches of Napoleon. This assertion may astonish those who have laid aside their judgment and given place to their admiration for Napoleon's brilliant exploits at Austerlitz and Jena, but history will sustain the claim that Napoleon never extricated his country from the clutches of five magnificent hosts. His genius only enabled him to utilize the values of victory, while Washington, by his prudent and sagacious counsel, saved the country from the far-seeing, cautious and jealous of the interest of the infant government his leadership had founded. Instead of presenting the country to the world as a nation of slaves, he gave the only instance on record of a great military chieftain setting a limitation upon his own power.

"If we shall raise up glory's page,  
Thou more than soldier and just less sage;  
All that has been, reflects less fame on thee,  
Than then all that is to be!"

The independence of the United States gave to the world the only real republic that has ever seen, except the little district of Rome, which was a republic in the top of the Alps. San Marino, with less than one-fifth the population of America, and with a territory of only a few square miles, has been a free State, governed by its own people because it was too poor to tempt the spoiler or to engender internal dissension. The Republic of San Marino, history tells, was so only in name. Rome had her classes, the Patricians and the Plebeians, and the Republic of San Marino was not equal or uniform and her tribunes, consuls and dictators were but modified forms of monarchs. The Republic of Athens and the Republic of Greece. In the chief magistracy often held dictatorial power, and prescribed as Solon did, the laws by which the people were to be governed. 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